workers/
employees has been suibmitted to the Government in the last week of October, 1997. A view of the Government on this proposal is likely to be taken by 31.12.1997. The final approval of the rehabilitation package will, however, depend upon the deliberations before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the prescribed authority under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Impact of Hike in the Prices of Natural Gas on the Fertilizer Sector

339. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact of the recent hike in prices of Natural Gas on the fertilizer sector; and

(b) how Government plans to neutralise the cost of production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) On the basis of the production levels of 1996-97, the likely impact on the subsidy outgo under the Retention Price Scheme of the increase in the price of natural gas with effect from 1.10.97 has provisionally been estimated at Rs. 298 crore per annum. An adhoc increase in the Retention Prices of the gas based urea units w.e.f. 1.10.97 has been notified on 13.11.97.

Proposal for fresh rehabilitation of IDPL

340. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the IDPL management and unions to submit a fresh rehabilitation proposal within certain parameters;

(b) whether the paremeters include extension of purchase preferencu from Government Institutions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have stipulated that IDPL should operate as a joint venture between the management, staff and the workers, if so, the role of the Government in such a venture; and

(d) whether the management and unions have submitted a fresh scheme in response to (a), if so, the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has inoicated that purchase preference with a price preference of 10% over the last purchase price could be extended for 50% of the production of IDPL from the Central Government Ministries/Departments.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government would continue to be the owners of the company.

(d) Yes, Sir. IDPL management has submitted the revised proposal in the last week of October, 1997 which is under consideration of the Government. The final approval of the rehabilitation package will, hoiwever, depend upon the deliberations before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the prescribed authority under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

HFC and FCI referred to BIFR

341. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and Fertilizer Corpora-

tion of India (FCI) were referred to BIFR in 1992;

(b) whether in 1994 Ministry proposed to the unions partial revival of Namrup & Sindri Units and closure of Durgapur, Barauni, Talcher, Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Haldia and FP and ARD;

(c) whether in April, 1995 Government decided in priciple to revive six of the above units barring Haldioa and Gorakhpur which were to be hived off; and

(d) whether now, after five years Government have again decided to run Sindri and Namrup only and close all other units; if so, the reasons for suchg change in decision; if not, the reasons for the delay in taking decision on the revival scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) were referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in Arpil 1992.

One of the rehabilitation options contemplated in 1994 envisaged the revival of the Namrup units of HFC and Sindri unit of FCI and the closure of all other units/establishments of these companies. In April 1995, Government approval was accorded for the revival packages of HFC/FCI envisaging the revamp of Namrup, Barauni & Durgapur units of HFC and Sindri, Ramagundam & Talcher units of FCI, with the stipulation that the fresh investment required be raised from healthy fertilizer cooperatives/financial institutions. The Haldia project of HFC and the Gorakhpur unit were to be hived off.

These packages could not be implemented for want of funding arrangements. The revival packages were thereafter reformulated from the stand point of funding by financial institutions in the light of the report of an Expert Group led by ICICI. These packages envisaged a fresh investment of Rs. 3507 crore on the revamp of the Namrup. Durgapur and Barauni Units of HFC; and Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI. Further reliefs and concessions, including write off of Government loans and accruied interest to the tune of Rs. 5006 crore were contemplated to make these packages viable. The revival package in respect of the Namrup units of HFC has been approved by the Government on 1.10.97. The enventual decision in respect of the remaining functional units of HFC & FCI, which will be subject to the approval of the BIFR, would, *inter-alia*, take into account the considerations of unitwise viability and tie-up of the funding arrangements.

भोपाल के गैस राहत आयुक्त के न्यायालय में लम्बित पड़े मामले

342. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्लाः क्या रसायन और उर्वरक** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भोपाल के गैस राहत आयुक्त के न्यायालय में लम्बित पड़े मामलों की तिमाही-वार अद्यतन संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) वर्ष 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान आयुक्त के कार्यालय में कितने नए मामले दर्ज किए गए;

(ग) क्या माननीय न्यायाधीश की आयुक्त के रूप में नियुक्ति पूर्णकालिक आधार पर की गई है; और

(घ) गैस राहत आयुक्त का कार्यालय किस स्थान पर खोला गया है?